
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Timber Management Resumes in Jackson Demonstration State Forest

Fort Bragg, Calif. Following a seven-year hiatus the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has resumed active timber management within Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Under a plan developed by the JDSF Advisory Group and CAL FIRE, a portion of the Brandon Gulch watershed will be selectively harvested consistent with the JDSF Forest Management Plan approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to improve or restore habitat for wildlife species associated with older forests, while maintaining recreational values for the local public and other forest visitors

"I am pleased that active forest management, valuable research and demonstration activities have resumed at JDSF," said CAL FIRE Director Del Walters. "The support and guidance of the JDSF Advisory Group has been an important part of getting the forest back in full operation."

The JDSF Advisory Group was appointed by the CAL FIRE director and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide forest management advice to the Department and to the Board. A subcommittee of the advisory group, consisting of foresters, ecologists, environmental advocates, and the general public, met over the course of several months. They adopted a management plan in Brandon Gulch in order to accelerate the restoration of older forest characteristics in the area.

The Brandon Gulch harvest is part of a larger research and demonstration project being conducted according to plans prepared by the advisory group in consultation with the department's forest management staff. This project incorporates monitoring of forest growth and structure, as well as forest bird species and the small plants that live beneath the forest canopy.

It is expected that the timber operations, conducted by a local logging contractor, Anderson Logging, Inc., will continue into the early fall before being discontinued for the winter period. The high quality logs will be sent to local mills for processing. Most of the largest trees are being left uncut in an effort to restore older forest conditions.

"The staff at JDSF has been working very hard to plan for the current and future management of the Forest," stated JDSF manager Marc Jameson. "We work closely with the advisory group to ensure that active management can move forward in a fashion that is consistent with the JDSF Management plan and with the support of the local community."

Selective timber harvesting also has begun in the area of the North Fork of the South Fork of the Noyo River, which is in the north-central area of JDSF. Revenues from these timber harvests support forest operations. Local economic benefits result from logging, trucking and milling jobs, and from timber yield taxes paid to Mendocino County.

JDSF is a 48,650-acre, predominantly redwood and Douglas-fir forest located in Mendocino County. It was established in the late 1940s for the purpose of research and demonstration of economic forest management. Timber harvesting on the forest had been halted since 2003 due to litigation regarding management plans and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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